GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Diversion of 21.42 Ha of forest land (i.e. 9.19 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF in Kadapa Division and 2.90 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF, 3.86 Ha in Nigidi & Extension RF and 5.47 Ha in Yerragonda Extension RF of Ananthapuramu Division) for construction of 400 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa - Madhugiri (Karnataka) by PSTSL(100% Subsidiary of POWERGRID), in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Kadapa – Final (Stage-II) approval accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 39 **Dated: 06-07-2021.**
Read the following:-

1) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.No.8462/2016/FCA-3, Dt.14.03.2018.
2) State Govt.Lr.No.1299/Sec.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.23.03.2018.
3) From GoI, MoEF& C.C, Lr.No.4-APC057/2018-CHN/0501, Dt.05.04.2018.
4) State Govt.Lr.No.1299/Sec.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.03.03.2021.
5) From GoI, MoEF& C.C, Lr.No.4-APC057/2018-CHN/28, Dt.06.04.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 21.42 Ha of forest land (i.e. 9.19 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF in Kadapa Division and 2.90 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF, 3.86 Ha in Nigidi & Extension RF and 5.47 Ha in Yerragonda Extension RF of Ananthapuramu Division) for Construction of 400 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Madhugiri (Karnataka) by PSTSL (100% Subsidiary of POWERGRID), in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Kadapa, and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai for their approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein. Accordingly, in the letter 4th read above, the State Government furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai while according in-principle (Stage-I) approval.

4. In the letter 5th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada have accorded (Stage-II) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 21.42 Ha of forest land (i.e. 9.19 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF in Kadapa Division and 2.90 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF, 3.86 Ha in Nigidi & Extension RF and 5.47 Ha in Yerragonda Extension RF of Ananthapuramu Division) for Construction of 400 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa - Madhugiri (Karnataka) by PSTSL (100% Subsidiary of POWERGRID), in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Kadapa, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

5. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 21.42 Ha of forest land (i.e. 9.19 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF in Kadapa Division

and 2.90 Ha in Gorivikanuma RF, 3.86 Ha in Nigidi & Extension RF and 5.47 Ha in Yerragonda Extension RF of Ananthapuramu Division) for construction of 400 KV Double Circuit Power Transmission Line from Kadapa – Madhugiri (Karnataka) by PSTSL (100% Subsidiary of POWERGRID), in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Kadapa, subject to the following conditions:-

i. The Legal status of forest land remain unchanged.

ii. The demarcation of the proposed area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 metres by the User Agency in consultation with the DCF concerned, at the project cost.

iii. The State Forest Department shall carryout the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 42.84 ha (32.57 ha in Compt No.54, Pathikonda RF and 13.53 ha in Compt No.57 Tuggali RF) of degraded forest area in Adoni Range of Kurnool Division from the amount already realized from the User Agency;

iv. The degraded forest land identified for CA and approved CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;

v. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;

vi. The State Forest Department shall carryout creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species *(preferably medicinal plants)* under the transmission line from the amount which is already realized from the User Agency;

vii. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 46 mtrs;

viii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred sub let to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

ix. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

x. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xi. The user agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;

xii. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as tar as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;

xiii. All efforts shall be taken to minimize the felling of trees from the proposed forest area and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of the trees wherever feasible at the cost of User Agency;

xiv. In case the portion of the transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;

xv. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.

xvi. The User Agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.

xvii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **21.42 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xviii. The user agency at the project cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;

xix. The Progress of the Compensatory Afforestation as mentioned by the DFO, Ananthapur Division in Si No 12 (v) (a) & (b) of part II i.e 121.431 ha of forest land and 1902.916 ha of non forest land and DFO, Kadapa Division in Si No 12 (v) (a)& (b) of part-II i.e 410.320 ha of forest land and 156.200 ha of non forest land shall be monitored by the Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada;

xx. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.

xxi. The State Government shall comply with the instructions issued by the REC and conveyed vide this office letters dated 02.02.2018 & 09.03.2018 with regard to implementation of compensatory afforestation and uploading of proposal details including general approval in the Ministry's web portal;

xxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.

xxiii. The user agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Govt. and to the Regional Office, regularly;

xxiv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by the Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated.28.03.2019;

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
VIJAY KUMAR GSRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Camp Office:National Tiger Conservation Authority,
Regional Office (South Zone), Bengaluru-560076.

The Chief Manager,
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, 1st Floor,
Sri Sai Rajitha Residency, Vempalli (PO & Mandalam),
Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh - 516329.

SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER